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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/488,738	01/20/2000	Todd Anthony Mitchell	RO999-164	4844

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAM V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 08/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/488,738

Applicant(s)

MITCHELL ET AL.

Examiner

Tam V Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06/06/02.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-18 are pending in this action. Claims 1-18 are presented for examination. This Office Action is response to the applicant's amendment dated on 06/06/02.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al. (US 5765140) in view of Gundewar et al. (US 6381610B1).

Re claims 1 and 8, Knudson discloses interactively defining a plurality of groups of users associated with the project, (Col. 2, lines 41-55); Knudson discloses associating a first user with said first group of users, (Col. 2, lines 41-45 and see abstract); presenting said first project tracking interface having said first set of task selections to said first user; associating a second user with said second group of users, (Col. 4, lines 47-67); Knudson disclose associating a second user with said second group of users, (Col. 2, lines 41-45 and see

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abstract); presenting said second project tracking interface having said second set of task selections to said second user, (Col. 5, lines 53-58).

Knudson does not clearly teach interactively defining, for each of said plurality of groups of users, a respective project tracking interface, each project tracking interface having a respective set of task selection, each task selection of a set of task selections corresponding to a respective task action performed by said at least one computer system, wherein a first set of task selections of a first project tracking interface for a first group of user is different from a second set of task selections of a second project tracking interface for a second group of users.

Gundewar teaches project repository module (20) responds by accessing task database (22) and obtaining task data for the particular project, communicating the task data to client (14) and, in step (110) displaying a project task selection window at client (14) that includes a list of major project task. In step (120), the user selects a particular project task identifier from the selection window that is communicated to project repository module, (Col. 8, lines 13-36). Gundewar discloses performing task action corresponding to task selection of said first set of task selections responsive to said first user interactively selecting the corresponding task selections of said first set task selections, (Col. 8, lines 14-36). Gundewar discloses performing task actions corresponding to task selections of said second set of task selections responsive to said second user interactively selecting the corresponding task selections of said second set of task selections, (Col. 8, lines 14-36).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Knudson by including project repository module (20) responds by accessing task database (22) and obtaining task data for the particular project, communicating the task data to client (14) and, in step (of major project task. In step (120), the user selects a particular project task identifier from the selection window that is communicated to project repository module, as taught by Gundewar, so that the project manager enables to plan and monitor the life cycle of a particular project, or even allow the project manager to track the work flows involved during a project's implementation.110) displaying a project task selection window at client (14) that includes a list of major project task.

Re claims 2 and 9, Knudson further discloses, wherein said step of interactively defining, for each of said plurality of groups of users, a respective project tracking interface, comprises interactively defining, for each task selection, a respective task description, whereby a task selection for a first project tracking interface may have a first task description, and the same task selection for a second project tracking interface may have a second task description different from said first task description, (Col. 2, lines 41-63).

Re claims 3 and 10, Knudson further discloses wherein each task selection displayed in a project tracking interface includes a task status indicator, (Col. 2, lines 56-63).

Re claims 4 and 11, Knudson further discloses, wherein said task status indicator is assumes one of a plurality of colors, each color corresponding to a respective status, (Col. 2, lines 56-63).

Re claims 5 and 12, Knudson further discloses, wherein said step of interactively defining, for each of said plurality of groups of users, a respective project tracking interface, comprises generating, for each of said plurality of groups of users, a respective interface definition file, said interface definition files containing entries corresponding to tasks, wherein a first interface definition file for defining said first project tracking interface contains a respective entry for each task selection in said first set of task selections, and a second interface definition file for defining said second project tracking interface contains a ;respective entry for each task selection in said second set of task selections, (Col. 2, lines 42-55 and Col. 2, lines 41-63).

Re claims 6 and 13, Knudson further discloses, wherein each said entry in an interface definition file includes a respective task description field, whereby a task selection for said first project tracking interface may have a first task

description, and the same task selection for said second project tracking interface may have a second task description different from said first task description, (Col. 2, lines 41-63).

Re claims 7 and 14, Knudson further discloses, wherein each said entry in an interface definition file includes a respective scope field specifying the scope of the task selection, whereby a task selection for said first project tracking interface may have a first scope, and the same task selection for said second project tracking interface may have a second scope different from said first scope, (Col. 2, lines 41-63).

Re claim 15, the subject matter of claim 15 are rejected in the analyzed above in claim 1; therefore, claim 15 is also rejected for the same reasons as given in claim 1.

Re claim 16, Knudson further discloses: an interactive interface definition function, said interactive interface definition function interactively receiving and storing a plurality of said project tracking interface definitions, each project tracking interface definition being associated with a respective group of user of said plurality of user, (Col. 2, lines 41-63).

Re claim 17, Gundewar further discloses, wherein each said project tracking interface includes a chronological ordering relationship among task selections of its respective set of task selections and at least one indicator indicating a next expected task selection in said chronological ordering relationship among task selections, (Col. 8, lines 13-49).

Re claim 18, Gundewar further discloses, wherein each said project tracking interface includes a chronological ordering relationship among task selections of its respective set of task selections and at least one indicator indicating a next expected task selection in said chronological ordering relationship among task selections, (Col. 8, lines 13-49)

***Conclusion***

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of



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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

**Contact Information**

**6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam V Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-5: 00PM.**

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for formal communications and (703) 746-7240 for informal communications.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202. Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

**7. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.**

TV:tv

08/16/02

  
**JEAN M. CORRIELUS**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**